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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

13th meeting of the Africa Regional
Co-ordinating Committee for the
Integration of Women in Development
(ARCC)

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
9-11 April 1992

REPORT OF THE 13TH MEETING OF THE AFRICA REGIONAL CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR THE INTEGRATION OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT

A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

1. The 13th meeting of the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development (ARCC) was held in Addis Ababa at the Headquarters of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) from 9 to 11 April 1992.

2. 11 out of the 15 member States of ARCC attended the meeting: Algeria, Burundi, Central African Republic, Congo, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Uganda, Zaire, Zambia and Zimbabwe as Past President of the 12th meeting of ARCC. Member States participating as observers included: Ethiopia, Gabon, Guinea and Sudan. Representatives from the following bodies of the United Nations system and/or specialized agencies also attended as observers: United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Fund for Women in Development (UNIFEM), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), International Labour Organization (ILO) and United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA). Intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations who also attended as observers were: Organization of African Unity (OAU), Inter-Agency Committee for Traditional Practices Harmful to Women and Children (IAC) and Ethiopian Women Entrepreneurs Association (EWEA).

B. OPENING SESSION (Agenda item 1)

3. The Zimbabwe Past President of ARCC presided over the meeting during the opening session. She welcomed all government representatives and participants from United Nations agencies, inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations attending the 13th meeting of ARCC. She called on the ECA Acting Executive Secretary, Mr Issa B.Y. Diallo, to address the meeting.

4. Delivering his statement, Mr. Issa B.Y. Diallo said he was pleased to address for the first time the members of the ARCC. Continuing, he said that the problems of women were not those of ARCC alone. It was important that women's issues and ideas emanating from the ARCC meeting were brought to the attention of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole (TEPCOW) and the Conference of Ministers since gender was now being considered as a crucial element in all strategies.

5. Speaking on the role of women in agriculture, Mr. Diallo asserted that nearly 80 per cent of the economically active population in sub-Sahara Africa were women. He referred to a recent global study of the United Nations which showed that women's role in this sector had become even more important in food production in recent years. With regard to health, he said that an African woman's life expectancy was estimated to be 54 years, while maternal mortality rates in Africa and Southern Asia were over 30 times those in developed regions.

6. Development policies, he said, had emphasized export-oriented growth centred on cash crops, while women's concerns in the informal and agricultural sectors were not high on the agenda

of governments. Another well-known problem, he said, was the fact that women's work was undervalued in the available statistics and that women's work in areas such as processing crops, small-scale enterprises and the like were often not considered as economic activities.

7. Considering the various changes taking place in the world today, such as the process of rapid globalization of the world economy, the democratization process and the transfer of technology, the Executive Secretary stressed that ECA was concerned with the technological and scientific education of women. He said that ECA was developing strategies in this respect and he urged women leaders to encourage talented girls and women to enter the field of science and technology.

8. Finally, Mr Diallo referred to the steps that ECA was taking towards the establishment of a federation of African women entrepreneurs. He said that women have proved to be astute business people and that this potential needed to be nurtured and developed since it could contribute towards the development of African countries. He appealed to all delegates to assist in the establishment of national women entrepreneurs associations in their respective countries where these have not already been established. Currently, he said, the majority of women in business were in the informal sector working in petty trade or in food sales, beer brewing and other enterprises. He said that studies have shown that there was greater difference in the earnings of men and women in the informal sector than in the formal sector. With this in mind, he said that ECA would do its utmost to serve the interest of African women. In this regard he said that there was a need to work hand-in-hand in this endeavour. He wished participants a successful meeting.

9. Following the Executive Secretary's statement, the outgoing President thanked Mr. Diallo for his presentation and replied to his statement by giving a brief summary of the salient issues of his speech, following which presented her report to the 13th meeting of ARCC. She said that the achievements of ARCC had been because of the support given by the host Government, other member States and by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA).

10. She reminded members of the importance of ARCC and of their role in co-ordinating subregional programmes on women in development; reviewing and evaluating the activities carried out in the region; and mobilizing resources for the implementation of programmes as agreed at the regional and subregional levels. To achieve this role, she said, there was a need for the bilateral exchange of information and experiences, also the need for continuity of well informed representatives at ARCC meetings.

11. Speaking of national machineries, she said that there was still a great need to ensure that established machineries achieved the objectives for which they had been set up for and that these achievements should be seen in the context of

continuous and effective co-ordination and consultation with ARCC. Referring to the Abuja Declaration, she stressed the fact that it was the duty of national machineries to articulate progress made on the implementation at the Regional Preparatory Conference in 1994 and the 1995 World Conference, to be held subsequently. Each member State, she said, should take stock of its achievements and failures. She pointed out that this assessment would enable each member State and the region as a whole to identify modification of possible strategies that would further address women's problems.

12. She also emphasized the issue of incorporating women's concerns into national development plans in areas such as agriculture, food production and technology development plus the gender aspects of environmental affairs and development. This, she said, should be considered seriously particularly in view of the Regional Conference and its preparations.

13. In conclusion, she informed ARCC members of decisions taken at meetings arranged by ECA/ATRCW at each subregional committee of the ECA/MULPOC, as agreed at the April 1991 ARCC meeting and that the reports of these meetings were actually part of the agenda for discussion. Finally she reiterated the support given to Zimbabwe during her term of office and she wished the new elected bureau success in its work ahead.

14. On another note, the Acting Executive Secretary of the ECA, Issa B.Y. Diallo informed delegates of two ideas the Commission considered crucial for the advancement of women. He emphasized the need for the establishment of a federation of women entrepreneurs in Africa and the establishment of an African bank for women. He said that countries have realized that women were part and parcel of human resources which needed to be redeployed. There were many qualified women competing in the labour market hence the need to forge ahead with this deployment of human resources.

15. Concerning the ideas of a federation for women entrepreneurs and the African bank for women, he said that there was a need for resources to develop these ideas. He said that these ideas were feasible, could be implemented and that women should be the driving force through the entrepreneurs, national, subregional and regional structures. He concluded by saying that ECA would make every effort to urge funding agencies, such as the Africa Development Bank (ADB) and others for possible funding and for the realization of these ideas. He also urged ARCC members to make their contribution by putting these ideas into action and to solicit ways and means of obtaining resources.

C. ELECTION OF THE BUREAU OF ARCC (Agenda item 2)

16. After lengthy discussions on this agenda item, the following countries were elected:

Nigeria	-	**President**
Central Africa Republic	-	**First Vice President**
Rwanda	-	**Second Vice President**
Uganda	-	**First Rapporteur**
Algeria	-	**Second Rapporteur**

D. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (Agenda item 3)

17. Taking the chair, the new President of the Bureau thanked all ARCC members for having elected Nigeria as President. With their support, she said, Nigeria would ensure the mobilization of funds for ECA and OAU. Having said this, she called on ARCC members to make comments on the agenda for the meeting. Having no comments to make, the meeting adopted the following agenda:

(1) Opening session

(2) Election of the Bureau of ARCC

(3) Adoption of the Agenda

(4) Reports to ARCC on: (a) the activities of the ECA Programme for the Advancement of Women (April 1991 to April 1992) (b) the meeting of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (c) Board of Trustees of International Research Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) and the Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM).

(5) Report of the Ad hoc Expert Group meeting on Modalities for the Creation of a Regional Association of Women Entrepreneurs.

(6) Reports of the Subregional Committee meetings on progress made in the implementation of the Abuja Declaration; Situation of Women in Agriculture and Industrial Transformation in the context of (AAF-SAP); Election of membership of ARCC; and Priorities for the Subregional MULPOCs Programme of Work and Activities.

(7) Preliminary discussion of the 1994 ECA Fifth Regional Conference in preparation for the World Conference in 1995.

(8) Any other business.

(9) Adoption of the report.

E. ACCOUNTS OF PROCEEDINGS

REPORTS ON ACTIVITIES OF THE ECA PROGRAMME FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN (PERIOD APRIL 1991-APRIL 1992)
(Agenda item 4(a)

18. Under this agenda item the ECA secretariat representative presented a document E/ECA/ATRCW/ARCC XIII/82/3. In particular, she brought the attention of the participants to the financial difficulties which had been encountered by the secretariat in meeting the decisions of the ECA Conference of Ministers regarding the organization of the MULPOC Subregional Committee meetings and which had been overcome due to the assistance of the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development and the Central African Republic, Gabon, Nigeria and Tanzania which provided the necessary funds. The speaker underlined the significance of the fact that money had come not from abroad but from the African countries themselves.

19. The presenter pointed out with satisfaction that the number of female professional staff members in the ECA secretariat had increased from 11 per cent to 18 percent, due to the hard work done by the ECA Task Force on Women in the Secretariat, which had been created in pursuance of the ECA Conference of Ministers Resolution 715. However, she stressed that the situation was still alarming and that our objective was 35 per cent by the year 1995.

20. The ECA secretariat representative highlighted some of the activities implemented by the African Training and Research Centre for Women (ATRCW) and other divisions of ECA during the reporting period. In particular, she mentioned two case studies on women's contribution to domestic trade and an Expert Group meeting on the Modalities for the Establishment of a Regional Association of Women Entrepreneurs. The presenter stressed that programmes for women were not only the responsibility of the ATRCW but that each division of ECA had certain activities regarding women. As an example, the presenter referred to the workshop on the Development of Entrepreneurial Capability in Cottage and Small-scale Industries which had been organized by the ECA Industry Division in Kampala, Uganda. She informed the participants that the ATRCW had published "Guidelines for the Incorporation of Women's Concerns in National Development Plans". The presenter briefed the participants on another expert group meeting which took place in Nairobi and discussed the implementation of a project funded by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and aimed at the improvement of women's position in the informal sector. In particular, she said that under this project, ECA had conducted a number of studies aimed at increasing basic data on women in the informal sector in Africa and had published a document "Guidelines for Improving the Working Conditions of Women in the Informal Sector."

21. The ECA representative also mentioned the ATRCW newsletter "Update" which was published twice a year. She urged participants to discuss appropriate ways for the distribution of this newsletter among member States. Among other activities of ECA with regard to women, the presenter recalled the "Directory of African women Experts" which will be published in the near future and which would be useful to individuals and organizations, including UN agencies who are really in need of such information. Another recurrent publication of the ATRCW was the "Annotated Bibliographies on African Women in Development." The speaker mentioned the most recent issue of this series which contained annotations on publications which discuss position of women in State and management.

22. In conclusion, the ECA representative shared with the participants the ATRCW's experience in self-evaluation. She provided participants with background information on this exercise and its benefits. The presenter also commented on the proposed programme of work which incorporated the recommendations expressed by the ECA Conference of Ministers, the Abuja Regional Conference, the Nairobi World Conference and ARCC. In particular, she stressed that for the first time the issue of the advancement of women became a separate subprogramme which stands on its own in the general work programme of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA).

23. Before the discussion the representative of the ECA secretariat pointed out that it was important when participants return back to their countries to disseminate information which was being given to them at the various meetings.

24. During the discussion the participants expressed their satisfaction regarding the report prepared by the ECA secretariat and the increase in the number of female professional staff within the ECA. However, they requested more information on ECA activities with regard to health care for women and to possible ways of involving women in macroeconomy and macroeconomic structures and their transfer to these spheres from the informal sector, to which the majority of women are still limited. They also expressed a wish for ECA to undertake more studies on the obstacles which impede the realization of good decisions and resolutions and which impair women's integration into development. Some of the participants asked the ECA representative to expand on the ECA's intentions to explore the gender-sensitive approach towards planning, because, with the process of democratization going on many African countries, women seemed to face more challenges than before. The delegate of Nigeria expressed her concern about national machineries and their viability in the context of the political situation within countries which tends to change very often and very quickly. She also underlined the benefits of "self-evaluation" and expressed a wish for expert training in this activity. It was also stressed that women needed training in how to use resources which are provided by donors and, at the same time, that African women

should not depend heavily on foreign aid because nowadays the attention of the world community was being diverted from Africa to other regions.

25. The observer from the OAU commented on the important role which the OAU could play at various meetings where African countries are represented. She stressed the necessity for co-ordination of different issues which are brought by African delegates to such meetings and expressed her disappointment that such an agreement was not reached during the Vienna meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women. She also underlined that the OAU was the political arm of Africa but that the recently-established Women in Development (WID) unit within the OAU would do its best to work hand-in-hand with the ECA/ATRCW and governments for a common goal.

26. The representative of Namibia raised the issue of elderly women and their integration into development and planning processes. She also asked the participants to help their newly-established WID office to identify the most appropriate type of national machinery for the mobilization of women.

27. In answering to the questions and problems raised, the ECA representative stressed that it was very important not to try to do everything at once. She mentioned that the ECA dealt with the problem of women's health but only in relation to women's role in the economy. She pointed out that there are other agencies such as WHO and UNICEF which are doing a great deal in this regard and that ECA contributes to the issue by housing some of the NGOs such as the IAC, whose representative was present at the ARCC meeting as observer and could provide detailed information about the committee's activities. She also stressed that in Africa "we adopt too many decisions" which are not fully implemented and that this referred not only to the ARCC resolutions but to the decisions of other bodies as well. She urged national machineries to act as pressure groups at the national level in order to work out resolutions.

28. Speaking about the best type of national machineries on WID the ECA representative pointed out that many women's organizations in African countries are usually linked to political parties and when the latter collapsed these organizations collapsed as well. She referred to the decisions of the Lusaka MULPOC which recommended that the ECA undertake a comprehensive study on how to use democratization to the advantage of women.

29. The ECA representative promised to try to organize training programmes for African women in self-evaluation techniques but requested participants to provide her with ideas on how it would be done and for which level of women leaders. With reference to the OAU/WID unit, the speaker stressed that it was due to the great efforts of the ARCC that this unit finally came into

existence and that was important for ARCC to monitor and strengthen the unit.

30. With regard to women's participation in decision-making, the ECA representative underlined that this was not the only possible way and that another opportunity was available through general sensitization of the public and through the involvement of those men who are committed to the goal of women's advancement.

REPORT ON THE MEETING OF THE UN COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN (Agenda item 4 (b)

31. Introducing document E/ECA/ATRCW/ARCC.XIII/92/4 on the item, the representative of the ECA informed the meeting that the 36th Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women held in Vienna, 11-20 March 1992 focused its work on the priority themes of Equality, Development and Peace as well as other issues.

32. On the theme of **Equality** the Commission recognized the recent achievements in legal equality, including the abolition of discriminatory provisions in existing laws and the introduction of corresponding amendments and new anti-discriminatory laws relating to different spheres of life. However, in practice, discrimination continued to exist and women continued to suffer. In this respect, laws needed to be consistently enforced throughout the legal and judicial systems.

33. On the theme of Development, the commission addressed the issue of women in extreme poverty: integration of women's concerns in national development planning. In this connection the member of the secretariat drew the attention of the meeting to the guidelines prepared by the ATRCW on how to incorporate women's concerns into national development plans addressed to planners and policy makers as well as national machineries as a guiding tool for policy formulation.

34. With respect to the theme of **Peace**, women's equal participation in all peace efforts including national and international decision-making enabling women's contribution to conflict resolution, security, policy formulation and creation of democratic systems was emphasised. It was important for the ARCC meeting to consider the role of national machineries, women leaders and other women organizations can play in their efforts to promote peace.

Women and environment

35. Here, emphasis was placed on the strong linkage between the status of women and their central role in environmental management and development. Accordingly it was observed that women's contribution to environmental protection and conservation had not been given sufficient recognition nor accorded the value it deserves. It was stressed that women need to be involved and

follow with keen interest the on-going activities at the national level in preparation and participate in the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development to be held in Brazil in June 1992 and recommendations of the conference thereafter and ensure that environmental issues pertaining to women are followed and implemented.

Preparation for the Fourth World Conference of Women

36. It was noted that the 4th World Conference in 1995 would coincide with the 50th anniversary of the United Nations; the 20th anniversary of the International Women's Year and the 10th anniversary of the Nairobi Forward Looking Strategies. In this regard, the Commission observed that 1995 was a good moment for holding the conference particularly considering the impact of the ongoing changes at the international, regional and national levels including democratization, social and economic changes. Hence preparations for the conference were beginning at a moment of new opportunities and challenges but also of new threats to the advancement of women. The 1995 conference would therefore present an opportunity to demonstrate the relationship of the advancement of women with political, economical and social issues relevant to the development of societies and communities.

37. Actions to be taken would include a broad information campaign on the conference and the development of a platform of action.

38. The Commission decided that the 1995 World Conference will be held in Beijing, China from 4 to 15 September 1995. At the end of the presentation, the 13th meeting of ARCC took note of the report.

THE 12TH SESSION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL RESERCH AND TRAINING INSTITUTE FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN (INSTRAW) (Agenda item 4 (c)

39. Reporting on the 12th Session of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, the representative of the secretariat informed the meeting of the activities of the agency during the year. Of particular interest to ECA was the work done on improving statistics and indicators on women, especially those related to the informal sector. INSTRAW, in this programme, was addressing a long standing problem of women's invisibility in statistical systems. The work of INSTRAW on improving statistics on women in the informal sector is a component of the ECA inter-agency project, "Improving the role of African Women in the Informal Sector Production and Management". INSTRAW has produced a very good guideline, entitled Handbook on Compilation of Statistics on Women in the Informal Sector, Industry, Trade and Services in Africa; and Synthesis of Pilot Studies on Compilation of Statistics on Women in the Informal Sector in Industry, Trade and Services.

40. Preceding the publication of this handbook, workshops had been organized for creating awareness in the sensitizing both users and producers of statistics in the African Region on the relevance of statistics on the informal sector for overall planning and policy.

41. Other discussions centred on the question of the under-utilization of available statistics as well as the inadequacies and inaccuracies within available statistics on women. In this connection, the representative of the ECA pointed out that although INSTRAW, the only organ set up mainly for statistics and research on women, was at the disposal of member States, very few requests had been forth-coming for statistics or research.

42. The meeting was further informed that INSTRAW was embarking on "time use" surveys: such surveys are inherently sex-specific and allow issues as varied as the management and use of time and space, female organizations etc. to be dealt with. Data collection will enable coverage of a full range of the various activities of women. INSTRAW had also designed a computerized roster of experts, a computerized bibliography database and a computerized roster of organizations dealing with WID issues.

43. On UNIFEM report, the ECA representative informed ARCC meeting of the consultation between ECA and UNFEM and stressed the need for closer collaboration between the two organizations. The meeting took note of the report.

REPORT OF THE AD HOC EXPERT GROUP MEETING ON MODALITIES FOR THE CREATION OF A REGIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS (Agenda item 5)

44. The report of the above meeting held in Nairobi on 22-25 October 1992 was introduced by the ECA representative. The presenter gave an overview of the situation of women entrepreneurs in Africa, stressing the role of women entrepreneurs in the overall economic development. She highlighted a number of constraints faced by women entrepreneurs including the actual size of women's enterprises; the concentration of women's businesses in the same area of activities thus creating stiff competition; generating rivalry between professional women and women entrepreneurs. The paper recognized that the majority of business activities were concentrated in the informal sector though it was indicated that a few women had gone into manufacturing industries. It was further stressed that more women should venture into large scale enterprises and industries. The need to form a strong economic group had become obvious, as women needed a framework which could create an enabling environment for women's entrepreneurial activities. This group would contribute in stimulating full utilization of potential female entrepreneurs and the experts had strongly recommended the immediate formation of a federation of African women entrepreneurs and the simultaneous formation of subregional and national associations.

45. The presentation was followed by a very enriching debate on the issue. The ARCC members appreciated and endorsed fully the idea of establishing a federation of African women entrepreneurs and a bank which would be a culmination of all the efforts of improving women's lives. Recommendations from the Nairobi expert meeting were endorsed and it was stressed that some of them should be addressed specifically to governments so that women in business and African chapters of the women's world banking could receive strong government support.

46. Questions were raised on the membership of the proposed federation and its functions which should not overlap with those of existing subregional groupings and economic groupings. It was understood that the functions were clearly stated in the constitution and ordinary members of the federation would be national associations of women entrepreneurs. It was also emphasized that the federation could address the question of taxation, one of the major concerns of business women.

47. During the discussion, the need for a clear definition in the text of the constitution of the target group and of the level of entrepreneurs addressed was emphasized. A group composed of Nigeria, UNIFEM and ECA was requested to work on the profile of those women entrepreneurs to be involved in the federation taking into consideration the need to move from the social welfare approach to the economic approach and to demystify the idea of enterprise, as most women operate in the informal sector.

48. The Committee adopted thereafter the following definition which should be inserted in the constitution:

49. For the guidance of national associations of women entrepreneurs, women entrepreneur in this context will mean:

i) any women in the process of conversion of raw material into a usable, semi-finished or finished goods e.g. food processing or manufacturing;

ii) any woman in the formal and informal sector who engages in economic activity on a full time basis as a career option;

iii) any woman who utilizes skills and resources for the provision of economic and social services e.g. dry cleaning, school ownership, hairdressing, fashion designing, catering etc.;

iv) any woman moving from the informal economic sector to the formal economic sector;

v) Women co-operative societies geared towards profit making and re-investment".

50. It was finally stressed that women should look beyond the business of buying and selling but to engage in other profit making activities which would allow women to exercise their full technical capabilities and potentials.

REPORTS OF THE SUBREGIONAL COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND PRIORITIES FOR THE SUBREGIONS (Agenda item 6)

REPORT OF THE GISENYI-BASED MULPOC'S SUBREGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE INTEGRATION OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT (Agenda item 6 (a)

51. Introducing this report, the representative of the ECA outlined the main items on the agenda of the meeting, namely: the progress made in the implementation of the Abuja Declaration, the role of women in agricultural and industrial transformation within the context of AAF-SAP, the evaluation of training programmes provided by the MULPOC to women officials in the CEPGL subregion, the interim report on the publication of the seventh issue of the "Women and Development" review and, finally, the identification of priorities for the subregion.

52. The representative of the secretariat observed that the three countries of the subregion had made progress with regard to the implementation of the Abuja Declaration. Significant progress had been made mainly in the sectors of education, employment and access to credit through state intervention and the advocacy not only of women's associations but also through private initiative. While there was no real problem with the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women in the subregion, there still existed laws which worked against the interest of women particularly in the area of rights of ownership, inheritance and fatherhood. Among the areas which required greater attention in the subregion were: the need to strengthen national machineries, the promotion of women's entrepreneurship and access to credit, the participation of women in agricultural extension and the circulation of information.

53. It was also noted that countries in the region had been concerned with the situation of women under structural adjustment programmes and taken measures to mitigate the adverse effects of adjustment particularly on employment and income-generating activities. Such measures fell within the context of the social-dimension-of-adjustment programmes. It had been felt that early-warning systems should be instituted in the subregion in order to cushion the effects of structural adjustment programmes on women.

54. With regard to the evaluation of training programmes provided by the MULPOC, there had been a feeling in the subregion that such programmes should be conducted in accordance with more stringent criteria. In the case of the publication of the Women and Development review, a number of measures had been proposed

in order to ensure that the publication of the review would continue and that it would have a wide readership. The priorities identified for the subregion focused on:

(i) the co-ordination of WID programmes within the MULPOC;

(ii) training and information;

(iii) population, health and nutrition;

(iv) the strengthening of national machineries; and

(v) the breaking down of statistical information.

55. Both the representatives of Rwanda and Burundi provided additional information to the country reports. It was noted in this connection that Burundi had adopted in March 1992 a constitution which gave all citizens equal rights to the ownership of property. In the case of Rwanda, the incoming democratic government would include a ministry of family affairs and women's advancement. That structure would help to consolidate the activities conducted to-date by other machineries. The national social action programme of Rwanda laid emphasis on women's education, employment and access to credit while the national association of Rwanda laid emphasis on food security and education.

56. In the course of discussion, it emerged that countries of other subregions had to resort to the shift system in primary education in order to enrol a larger number of children.

57. The meeting took due note of the fact that new members had been elected to the bureau of the subregional committee with Zaire as Chairperson, Burundi as Vice-Chairperson and Rwanda as Rapporteur. The meeting also took note of the report and recommendations of the Subregional Committee for the Integration of Women in Development.

REPORT OF THE LUSAKA MULPOC (Agenda item 6 (b)

58. Introducing the report the representative of Zambia, the rapporteur of the MULPOC, stated that the main concern of the member states of the Lusaka MULPOC was the question of the food crisis as spelt out in paragraph 8 of the report.

59. With respect to the Abuja Declaration the question of how far these had been implemented and the difficulties encountered during implementation had been brought out by the participants during their respective presentations.

60. Another issue for discussion had been the initiative of PTA in respect of their WID programme. The PTA introduced the programme and requested member States of the MULPOC to endorse

this initiative. The Zambia representative expressed the hope that the ARCC would also endorse this initiative.

61. The representative of Zambia ended the report by reading out the resolution which had been adopted by the meeting and drew special attention to specific operative paragraphs in respect of:

i) the revitalization of the MULPOC WID programme which has become increasingly ineffective, this she said, had been attributed partly to budgetary constraints and partly to the collapse of many women's machineries because of political changes in the region;

ii) the need to set priorities for the implementation of the Abuja Declaration since many strategies which had been proposed had not been implemented;

iii) the need to increase the flow of information between the MULPOC and member States.

62. Finally, the presenter informed the meeting of the new Bureau which was elected during the Lusaka MULPOC meeting as follows:

Uganda	-	Chairperson
Namibia	-	Vice-Chairperson
Zambia	-	Rapporteur

The ARCC meeting took note of the report.

REPORT OF THE NIAMEY MULPOC (Agenda item 6 (c)

63. Introducing the report, the representative of the ECA said that the deliberations of the meeting were centred on:

i) the review of the progress made in the implementation of the Abuja Declaration;

ii) an analysis of the situation of African women in agriculture and industrial sectors in the context of the Africa Alternative Framework to Structural Adjustment Programmes (AAF-SAP);

iii) identification of new priority areas for women's programme in the subregion; and

iv) election of the members of the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development.

64. Speaking on the progress made in the implementation of the Abuja Declaration, the presenter said that it appeared from the country reports and discussions that efforts had been made by member States in the area of:

A. Education and training, whereby women were being provided with technical skills; the enrollment of girls had increased at all levels of education though with many girls dropping out of school at the higher level for various reasons. However, in adult education, it was reported that a high rate of illiteracy still existed in most countries.

B. With regard to the employment of women in the modern sector, efforts had been undertaken to facilitate women's access to key posts. For example in the Ivory Coast, it was pointed out that there were 3 women ministers, 8 deputies and 5 mayors. However, in most cases, action taken to improve the status of women in the employment sector fall short of the targets set in the Abuja Declaration.

C. There had been some changes in the area of law and legislation in some cases with regard to marriage and access to credit. In Burkina Faso, for example, it was reported that the country had adopted the texts on agrarian and land-tenure reforms which recognized women's right to possess and own land both in rural and urban areas. The adoption of a family code dealing with marriage and divorce had been carried out in a number of countries.

D. In the agricultural and industrial sectors, most countries reported that more than 80 per cent of women were engaged in various agricultural activities such as the processing of agricultural products. While in industry, most countries reported that the percentage of women in this sector was still very small and limited to minor repetitive jobs. Women were largely confined to the small-scale industrial sector where they could undertake activities such as food processing, soap making, vegetable oil extraction, handcrafts and the like.

Constraints/problems experienced

65. Though progress had been made in some areas, socio-cultural factors and the non-application of laws had impeded the implementation of the Abuja Declaration. Other constraints experienced included: access of women to physical resources such as land and financial resources; traditional prejudices which often excluded women from development schemes and programmes:

- traditional techniques of production and primitive tools used by women;

- limitations to women's access to credit;

- lack of modern technology;

- difficulties in transporting and marketing their products;

- lack of factual data to assess women's activities and their contribution to national economy;

- "the drop out" of girls from school and women from training programmes; and

- lack of co-ordination of women's programme.

Action being taken to overcome some of these problems

66. (i) In education, training, science and technology, it was reported that scholarships were being provided to girls at the higher level of education in order to increase the number of girls at this level. This was the case in Mali and Niger. In Ghana, science, technology and mathematics clinics were being organized yearly to encourage girls at higher levels in secondary schools to pursue careers in these fields.

(ii) Research studies and surveys were being conducted with a view to analyze the situation of women in various areas.

67. **Priority areas** on examining the situation of women, the meeting identified priority areas for the women's programme and, in this respect, adopted a ten point resolution in the areas of:

- Education, law, flow of information among member States, credit, material resources, trade exchange of experiences, co-ordination of promotional activities among member States, and effective implementation of the Niamey resolutions.

- Another issue of great concern discussed was the reactivation of the Office of the Co-ordinator of the Programme on Women in Development at the Niamey MULPOC - a resolution to this effect was adopted and called on member States to give support to the women's programme of the MULPOC.

68. At the end, the Niamey MULPOC Subregional Committee elected the following Bureau:

Burkina Faso	-	Chairperson
Niger	-	Vice-Chairperson
Nigeria	-	Rapporteur

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE YAOUNDE MULPOC
(Agenda item 6 (d)

69. This agenda item was introduced by the Secretary of State for Social Affairs of the Central African Republic in her capacity as Vice-Chairperson of the Subregional Committee. She noted that the Committee's meeting held from 17 to 19 February 1992 in Yaounde, Cameroon, had been attended by 5 member States, namely: Cameroon, Chad, Congo, Central African Republic and Equatorial Guinea.

70. The Bureau elected to conduct the work of the Committee had comprised of Cameroon as chairperson, the Central African Republic as Vice-Chairperson and the Congo as Rapporteur.

71. She went on to review the main issues raised under the agenda items and the conclusions at which the meeting had arrived. In terms of the implementation of the Abuja Declaration, the subregion had made headway in every area. One particular problem underscored had to do with recent changes occurring in Chad which had affected the national machinery by reducing it to the Office of a Director-in-charge of Women's advancement within the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare.

72. It was also observed that issues relating to the role of women under AAF-SAP and the specific needs of women in terms of technology had received proper attention. Indeed, the countries had worked out social dimension programmes designed to mitigate the adverse effects of adjustment on vulnerable groups, especially women. The training of women leaders was suggested as a measure that would secure enhanced participation of women in the negotiation and implementation of development programmes.

73. With regard to the needs of women in food technology, there was a need to conduct an inventory of agricultural processing technologies, to develop technological programmes focusing on the training of artisans and to establish micro- and credit schemes that would enable women to acquire and to exploit such technologies.

74. The new priorities for the subregion would cover:

(a) the contribution of women to solving the problem of food insecurity;

(b) the promotion of women's entrepreneurship and income generating activities, particularly in agro-food industries; and

(c) women and the environment.

75. The recommendations of the Subregional Committee had to do mainly with taking into account the priorities set in national programmes; the sharing of information and experiences on the

promotion of women's advancement; the organization of training seminars for women leaders of rural women's groupings; the promotion of investment in appropriate technologies relating to women's activities; the operationalization of the Abuja Declaration and of the Subregional Committee; and the identification of new areas of interest for intensifying women's entrepreneurship.

76. The meeting took due note of the report and of the table summarizing the problems facing the subregion and the solutions proposed.

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE TANGIER-BASED MULPOC
(Agenda item 6 (e))

77. The representative of the secretariat began by explaining that the meeting of the Subregional Committee for North Africa had been held in 1991. Therefore, ECA had not felt it necessary to convene another meeting this year as had been done for the other subregions. Until March 1992, the WID programme for the Tangier-based MULPOC had received highly appreciated support from the Government of Egypt. Indeed, Egypt had seconded an expert on the advancement of women to the MULPOC to co-ordinate the WID programme of the subregion.

78. The report of the meeting had dealt with the review of women's advancement activities undertaken by the MULPOC and the work programme and priorities for the biennium 1992-1993. The main activities conducted had included a study on the status of women in North Africa and a study on the rural leadership training project.

79. The 1992-1993 work programme advocated the intensification of exchanges among countries and greater participation of member States in the conduct of research by placing available information at the disposal of the programme.

80. The delegate of Algeria informed the meeting that the Committee of officials of the North African MULPOC which had just met in Addis Ababa had been informed of the approaches being made in order to renew the contract of the woman's programme co-ordinator.

81. During the discussion, the meeting took note of the commendable gesture of the Government of Egypt which should induce other countries to support likewise subregional programmes for the integration of women in development.

82. The meeting took due note of the report.

NOTE ON THE 1994 FIFTH REGIONAL CONFERENCE: PREPARATION FOR THE WORLD CONFERENCE (Agenda item 7)

83. In introducing document E/ECA/ATRCW/ARCC.XIII/92/6 on this item, the ECA representative gave a brief background of the 1984 Third Regional Conference on the Integration of Women in Development and the World Conference in 1985. She referred to the Arusha and Nairobi Strategies adopted at those conferences.

84. Continuing, she recalled the key issue addressed in the strategies and the emphasis placed on areas such as agriculture and food production, industrial and human resources development. She also recalled the numerous resolutions adopted both at the regional and global levels calling for the implementation of the strategies. The significant progress and changes made in the implementation of the strategies were also highlighted.

85. Moving on, the presenter further recalled the Regional Review Conference on the Situation of African Women at the Close of the 1980s which was held in Abuja, Nigeria in November 1989. The conference, she said, reviewed progress made since 1984 and 1985 in the implementation of the Arusha and Nairobi Strategies, respectively. The review, within the context of the Arusha and Nairobi Strategies, she said, showed that the situation of women had deteriorated especially in most countries of Africa where economic crises, the growing burden of debt and severe cutbacks in social development resources had further constrained the implementation of the strategies. In this respect, she said, the conference adopted further concrete action in various areas of development in a Declaration entitled: "Abuja Declaration on Participatory Development: The Role of Women in Africa in the 1990s." Having realized the slow pace in the implementation of the Arusha and Nairobi Strategies, the Abuja Declaration recommended comprehensive measures and specific targets whose implementation at the national, subregional, regional and international levels would accelerate the integration of women into the development process.

86. Given the above background, the presenter then referred to the coming Fifth Regional Conference 1994 and the World Conference in 1995, and said that the role of ARCC in preparation for these two conferences was crucial. She requested the ARCC meeting to devote a great deal of time and thinking in terms of the theme, objectives and the agenda of the Fifth Regional Conference. She read out a number of issues which, she said, the meeting might need to consider. She informed participants of the ATRCW 1992-1993 Work Programme and its activities which would focus on a number of activities pertinent to the issues of the Regional and World Conference.

87. Finally, she advanced the following proposed substantive issues of the agenda for the Regional Conference:

1) Report of the outgoing Chairperson of the Fourth Regional Conference on the Integration of Women in Development;

2) Country, UN agencies, inter-governmental and non-governmental organization reports;

3) Report of the ECA secretariat on the activities carried out since the Fourth Regional Conference and an overview of the assessment on the implementation of the strategies;

4) The impact of the socio-economic and external debt crises on women in Africa;

5) Women in decision-making their visibility in the main-stream of the political arena and decision-making;

6) Economic empowerment of women - women entrepreneurship;

7) The gender aspects of environmental and development problems;

8) The role of the national machineries in the implementation of the strategies and in articulating women needs;

9) Preparation for the World Conference (1995);

10) Any other business; and

11) Consideration and adoption of the report, recommendations and resolutions.

88. The 13th meeting tentatively agreed to the above agenda subject to further review of the agenda during the 14th meeting of ARCC in 1993.

89. In the discussion that followed, it was suggested and accepted by delegates that a questionnaire for a survey should be designed to facilitate member States in carrying out an exhaustive review of country reports and which would provide analytic assessment. It was also suggested that this survey exercise would provide women with the opportunity to assess themselves.

90. Speaking on the role of national machineries, concern was expressed by most delegates that there was a need to strengthen these structures particularly as preparations are being made towards the planning for the Regional and the World Conferences.

ARCC members should establish an information network in their respective subregions to ensure the effective flow of information among member States, the ECA and NGOs.

91. On the question of raising the status and role of women, it was suggested that the OAU should design a mechanism with a view to encouraging this and to sensitize governments to actively support women's causes. The OAU has the political cloud which it could use to further promote the work of "Women in Development." Finally, the issue of the appointment of the Secretary-General for the World Conference was raised. The meeting decided that a recommendation should be prepared on this matter for submission to the ECA Conference of Ministers for their information and endorsement.

92. At the end, the 13th meeting of ARCC adopted two resolutions on "African women in the 1990s" and "women in conflict resolution". The resolutions were submitted to TEPCOW and adopted by the Conference of Ministers as amended.

STATEMENTS BY OBSERVERS OF UN AGENCIES, OAU, MEMBER STATES AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

A) <u>OAU Statement</u>

93. In his statement, the OAU representative briefed participants on the status of cooperation between OAU and ECA regarding the promotion of women. In particular, he admitted the significant role played by the ARCC in pushing for the creation of a WID unit within OAU. The presenter highlighted some of the activities in which the OAU/WID Unit had taken part as organizer and participant. Among such activities mentioned include: the seminar on Food Self-sufficiency and Africa Recovery (1991) which was organized in close cooperation with ECA and with the financial assistance of many agencies, including ILO, WHO, UNICEF, Pan-African Association of Women's Organization (PAWO), ADB, FAO and UNIDO. The speaker pointed out that the WID unit of the OAU was currently engaged in the preparation of a project on functional education of women and he appealed to all participants to support it. He also mentioned that the unit was engaged in the preparation of an African Charter for Women which would be developed in close co-operation with ECA and other agencies.

94. The OAU representative reminded participants that the OAU had participated in the development of the Arusha Strategies and was engaged in the preparations for the Nairobi World Conference and the Regional Conference on Women. He informed participants that a project to strengthen the WID unit at the OAU had been recently approved but that the unit relied on the cooperation of the ECA/ATRCW regarding its implementation. He also briefed participants on another project which dealt with the informal sector. The OAU was among its initiators and was responsible for

the political component of the project which covered 4 African countries: Congo, Burkina Faso, Gambia and Zambia. Currently the Organization is involved in preparations for the regional Conference which will discuss and assess the results of this project.

95. In conclusion, the OAU representative stressed that the issue of women's advancement is inseparable from that of children's advancement. The OAU with the assistance of UNICEF was at the moment preparing for an African Conference on the subject as a follow-up to the decisions of the Abuja Conference last year. He also assured participants that co-operation would be fostered in relation to environmental issues as well.

B) **UNICEF Statement**

96. In her statement, the representative of UNICEF briefly commented on the organizational structure of UNICEF which operated at country level but also had its subregional bureaux. In Africa, UN CEF has an office in Nairobi which covers eastern and southern Africa and another office in Abidjan which deals with western and Central Africa. The presenter underlined that the major target of UNICEF activities was, of course, children, their development and protection. However, she stressed that this target could not be achieved without the advancement of women. She pointed out that the promotion of women's concerns was present in all UNICEF programmes and projects whether the programme dealt with health, nutrition, education, water, environment or equality matters. UNICEF also provided support for entrepreneurship and other economic activities of women especially those of poor women, including the promotion of women's access to credit through training and financial assistance based, in particular, on the Grameen Bank model. The special concern of UNICEF was the conditions of poor women. She appreciated the idea expressed about the establishment of a regional development bank for women. She also lauded the work of ECA/ATRCW in such spheres as the development and promotion of women's entrepreneurship. The speaker urged participants to take into account the link between women's work and child-care in programme design and implementation. She also stressed the need for a link between the present situation and the status of women and the disadvantages which girls suffered.

97. In conclusion, the UNICEF representative emphasized the benefits of inter-agency collaboration and assured participants that UNICEF was ready to continue such collaboration with other agencies towards a common goal.

C) **UNIFEM Statement**

98. In her presentation, the UNIFEM representative asserted the similarity of interests and objectives of her organization and those of ECA/ATRCW. She pointed out that for UNIFEM the major target was rural women and because of that they had reorganized

themselves and established field offices which worked in close collaboration with the MULPOCs. The presenter stressed the significance of the Lagos Plan of Action (LPA) and its provisions for women. She pointed out that for UNIFEM the LPA was a major document to help develop their own strategies regarding the promotion of African women. In particular, she singled out three priority areas of UNIFEM activities: food security, promotion of women's entrepreneurship; and the integration of women in development, particularly, in the mainstream of development. Further, she briefed participants on the UNIFEM strategy in developing contacts with national machineries and structures, as well as with regional and subregional institutions involved in the cause of women's promotion. National WID machineries, she said, should work closely with technical departments in order to respond to women's multisectoral needs, especially in planning and rural development. She stressed the necessity to mobilize women within each country and also from different countries into a new front particularly in view of the current political pluralism and democratization process by which new women's associations were emerging. She asserted that multiparty system could be an asset on one hand but could also be a threat to the defence of women's interests if women did not build a solid front.

99. In conclusion, the UNIFEM representative emphasized the need to articulate women's needs with national and regional priorities for development and that to this end, UNIFEM has provided assistance to ADB and OAU to establish WID policies and units. She also referred to UNIFEM's field offices in Dakar and Harare which were coordinating with ECOWAS, SILS, Lake Chad Basin, SADCC and PTA respectively in order to sensitize the experts and assist in mainstreaming WID issues in the regular programmes. She further stressed the need for co-ordination and co-operation among all organizations actively involved in the promotion of African women's participation in the development of the continent. The presence of the two field co-ordinators from Dakar and Harare at the ARCC meeting, she said, was an indication of UNIFEM's continuous willingness for cooperation.

D) **ILO Statement**

100. In her statement, the ILO representative pointed out that the promotion of respect for the principles of equal opportunity and same treatment for men and women had been one of the fundamental objectives of her organization since its establishment. ILO was acting in two ways: by developing and implementing specific projects for women and by promoting the integration of women's concerns into general projects and programmes. The presenter highlighted some of the recent activities of ILO at international, regional and national levels. In particular, she briefed participants on a new two year project called "The ILO Interdepartmental Project on Equality for Women in Employment" which involved a great number of ILO structural units and which was planned to be the ILO's contribution to the

1995 World Conference to be held in Beijing. The project would culminate in the International Conference on "Equality for Women in a Changing World: Challenges for the Future" which would assess the status of women workers. The speaker informed participants about ILO's efforts to establish a structural network to promote WID issues and commented on its objectives and composition. She expressed ILO's interest to co-operate with all bodies and agencies as far as the promotion of women was concerned and, in particular, with such organizations as ECA/ATRCW and OAU.

E) **Statement by IAC**

101. In her statement the IAC representative briefly commented on two reports presented by the ECA secretariat regarding the ECA activities for the advancement of women during the reporting period and the meetings of the 36th Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women and the 12th Session of the INSTRAW Board of Trustees. In particular, she pointed out that ECA dealt not only with economic issues but with various social problems including health care as well. She asserted that the Inter-African Committee on Harmful Traditional Practices (IAC) was directly involved in activities connected with women's health. She mentioned that IAC had 22 member organizations, that is to say similar national machineries in African countries, and was provided with technical assistance by ECA/ATRCW. She appreciated this help and stressed that IAC was collaborating with the ATRCW in each aspect of their activities what was very important. She also assured participants that it was not possible to achieve the economic development of women without the solution of their health problems and, in particular, without the eradication of certain harmful practices which were considered as a serious threat to women's health. She supported this fact with a number of examples of existing practices.

F) **Statement by UNFPA**

102. In her statement, the UNFPA representative stated that in its mandate for Population and Development Activities, UNFPA had taken women's issues as a corner stone and was committed to the goal of enhancing the role and participation of Women in Population and Development. Similarly, she pointed out that UNFPA has emphasized the need to improve the status of women at national, regional and global levels in areas such as fertility, infant child and maternal mortality.

103. Taking the dual responsibilities of women, UNFPA has paid special attention to their needs as mothers and workers. She appreciated the work of ECA/ATRCW in its efforts to promote the advancement of women and called on all agencies to take into account the importance of linking population issues with the improvement of the status of women by designing and developing programmes with the goal of reducing infant child and maternal mortality.

104. In conclusion, she stressed the benefits of collaboration among UN agencies and other organizations for the advancement of women and that UNFPA was ready for collaboration in the implementation of programmes that enhances the advancement of women in various aspects.

G) **Statement by the Representative of Ethiopia**

105. In her statement, the representative of Ethiopia thanked ECA/ATRCW for inviting the Women's Unit to participate in the meeting of ARCC.

106. She congratulated the OAU for its attempt to draft the African Charter for Women which she felt governments might be able to abide by the rules and regulations of this charter and do serious work concerning women.

107. She briefed participants about the Women's Unit in the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development. The Unit was established in mid 1988 after the World Conference held in Nairobi, which recommended and urged governments to integrate women into all phases of the development process and which also stressed that national economic goals could not be realized unless the status and role of women were fully taken into account.

108. The Unit was responsible for the inclusion of women in development activities and their integration in the overall development plans of the country. The objectives of the Unit are to:

- sensitize national policy and decision-makers regarding the need to incorporate factors related to women into the national development plans;
- develop a methodological framework for integrating women into the development process;
- provide ministries and agencies with technical guidance regarding the integration of women in development;
- strengthen the data base on women related issues and disseminate information through various media;
- devise monitoring, evaluation and follow-up mechanisms, and provide short and medium-term training and study tours to educate national professional people.

109. Up to now, the Unit has focused on sensitizing policy-makers, regional administrators, decision-makers and planners through three national and two regional workshops. In addition, the Unit staff regularly attended policy and programming meetings

to provide their outlook on women's involvement in proposed plans and strategies. They also attended seminars and workshops and had made several study tours to different countries. The Unit was planning to focus on developing and implementing research related to women's issues. However, up to now no clear methodology for integrating women into the development process has been developed. She said "we would like to know your views on this" and if any of your respective countries has produced economic indicators which would show that at least some development plans have incorporated the women's dimension, because this is the practical or technical problem that planners face whenever they come across the question of integrating women's dimensions in development plans".

CONCLUDING REMARKS

110. At the end of its deliberations, the ARCC President commented on the work of ECA/ATRCW in its efforts to promote the advancement of women in the region and thanked ARCC members for their support and constructive participation in the meeting. She called on each and every ARCC members to carry on the work of ARCC and ensure that decisions made at the 13th meeting of ARCC were implemented.

111. On behalf of the Acting Executive Secretary of the ECA, the Chief of ATRCW thanked the ARCC President for the role she had played and which led to the success of the meeting. She said that ECA/ATRCW needed the help of ARCC in the promotion of women and in particular in the preparation of the forthcoming Fifth Regional Conference in 1994 and the World Conference in 1995. She urged ARCC members to actively participate in TEPCOW and in the Conference of Ministers.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS (Agenda item 8)

112. Under this agenda item, administrative matters pertaining to payment of Daily Subsistence, Allowance (DSA) to participants were raised and the secretariat informed the participants concerned that efforts would be made to assist them in this matter.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT (Agenda item 9)

113. Having gone through the report thoroughly, the 13th meeting of ARCC adopted the report as amended on 12 April 1992.

13TH MEETING OF THE AFRICA REGIONAL CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR THE INTEGRATION OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT (ARCC)

9-11 April 1992

Newly Elected Members of ARCC
(1992-1994)

LUSAKA MULPOC

Uganda	Chairperson
Namibia	Vice-Chairperson
Zambia	Rapporteur

TANGIER MULPOC

Morocco	Chairperson
Tunisia	Vice-Chairperson
Algeria	Rapporteur

GISENYI MULPOC

Zaire	Chairperson
Burundi	Vice-Chairperson
Rwanda	Rapporteur

YAOUNDE MULPOC

Cameroon	Chairperson
Central Africa Republic	Vice-Chairperson
Congo	Rapporteur

NIAMEY MULPOC

Burkina Faso	Chairperson
Niger	Vice-Chairperson
Nigeria	Rapporteur

Resolution No. 1

AFRICAN WOMEN IN THE 1990S

The 13th meeting of the Africa Regional Coordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development (ARCC) held in Addis Ababa from 9 to 11 April 1992,

Having considered the reports of the Subregional Committees on Women in Development which have met earlier in the year;

Gratified by the efforts made by a number of countries to implement the Abuja Declaration on Participatory Development: the role of Women in Africa in the 1990s, and aware that the full implementation of the Declaration requires greater commitment on the part of member states;

Taking note of the elections that have taken place at the subregional and regional levels for membership at MULPOC and at ARCC level;

Commending ECA's efforts to establish a Federation of African Women Entrepreneurs;

Realizing the importance that an African Bank for Women can play in the advancement of women;

1. **Commends** the Member States which have initiated efforts to implement the Abuja Declaration on Participatory Development:the role of women in the 1990s and call on those Member States which have not yet done so to consider taking the necessary steps to do so;

2. **Urges** member states to step up their activities related to : the revision of their legal texts by drafting family codes, strengthening the schooling of young girls and the elimination of illiteracy among women; establishing a data bank for women; promoting trade between countries in products produced by women;and the creation of the necessary policy environment at the national level for the implementation of micro-projects initiated by women;

3. **Urges** the Executive Secretary of the ECA to reserve posts for women in each MULPOC in order to revitalize the MULPOC programme for women;

4. **Appeals** to Governments to pledge 50% of their UNTFAD contribution to the respective MULPOCs towards the programme for women which should include coordination, dissemination of information, and the strengthening of national machineries for the advancement of women;

5. **Expresses appreciation** to those member states in which associations of women entrepreneurs have been established and urges those which have not yet done so to encourage the establishment of these associations.

6. **Recommends** to the ECA that the Federation of African Women Entrepreneurs be established as soon as possible and calls on UNDP/UNIFEM to give financial, material and technical support for the setting up of a secretariat for the Federation;

7. **Recommends** to the Executive Secretary of the ECA that an African bank for women be established.

8. **Calls** on Member States to provide support towards the establishment and functioning of the Federation of African Women Entrepreneurs, and the African Bank for Women;

9. **Urges** the Executive Secretary of the ECA to continue with vigour his efforts for the establishment of the Federation of African Women Entrepreneurs and the African Bank for Women and to call upon the Secretary General of the OAU and the President of the ADB for their support and collaboration in these endeavours;

10. **Appeals** to the Administrator of the UNDP to provide the necessary support related to the establishment and functioning of the Federation of African Women Entrepreneurs and the African Bank for Women;

11. **Calls** upon the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the European Economic Community and International Development agencies to make available financial and technical support to the bank, particularly at the time of take off.

Resolution No. 2

WOMEN IN CONFLICT RESOLUTION

The 13th meeting of the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee on integration of Women in Development held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 9 to 11 April 1992,

Considering the Arusha and Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women with regard to peace and development,

Recalling the Declaration of Abuja on Participatory Development: the Role of Women in the 1990s and its appeal to African Governments to put an end to internal strife, civil wars and abuses of human rights which are depleting the continent of its valuable human resources,

Convinced that peace is a pre-requisite for development as no meaningful development can take place in a climate of instability,

Knowing that many women experience the hazards of civil conflicts such as slave labour, hunger and severe malnutrition human degradation and displacement,

1. **Urges** governments to make every effort for the establishment, consolidation and maintenance of peace in their countries and to ensure that women are part of all peace initiatives and negotiations in their respective countries.

2. **Supports** the initiative of the Uganda Government to hold a Regional Conference on Women for Peace which will give a forum to women leaders of the region to propose strategies for the establishment and maintenance of peace in the region and propose programmes for alleviating adverse efforts of civil conflicts on women;

3. **Urges** member States to facilitate the participation of women leaders in the Conference;

4. **Requests** ECA and OAU to assist the host country in the organization of the Conference and to report its conclusion to their respective legislative bodies.

RECOMMENDATION
ON THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN: ACTION FOR EQUALITY, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE

The 13th meeting of the Africa Regional coordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 9 to 11 April 1992,

Recalling the resolution L.18 adopted by the 36th session of the Commission on the Status of Women sitting in Vienna, 11-20 March 1992, on the Preparation for the **Fourth World Conference** on Women: Action for Equality, development and Peace;

Considering in particular paragraph 4 relating to the appointment of the Secretary General of the **Fourth World Conference to take place in Beijing, P.R. China in 1995,**

Taking into account the practice of geographical rotation observed by the three previous World Conferences on the Integration of Women in Development 1975, - Secretary-General from W. Europe; 1980 Copenhagen - Secretary-General from Latin America 1985, Nairobi - Secretary-General from Asia) and is considering it appropriate therefore that the position of Secretary-General be accorded to Africa,

Noting with satisfaction the preparations for the World Conference already initiated by the 36th session of the Commission on the Status of Women, held from 11 to 20 March 1992 in Vienna,

Requests the ECA Conference of Ministers to recommend to member States to prepare for the **Fourth World Conference** and to participate effectively taking into account the pertinent resolutions adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women.

Urges member States to envisage present candidates to the UN Secretary-General for the position of Secretary-General as has been envisaged by the Vienna Conference and calls on the OAU Secretary-General to follow closely these candidatures so as to adopt a common African position.

Urges the Conference of ECA Ministers to recommend to the Secretary-General of the UN to respect the principal of geographical rotation in the appointment of the Secretary-General of the **Fourth World Conference** and accord the post to an African.

THIRTEENTH MEETING OF AFRICAN REGIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR THE INTEGRATION OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT

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